



The Human Relations Commission

Members Meeting Minutes

Location: Telecommunication due to Covid-19 Safer at Home Order

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Delia Busby called the meeting to order at 9:01am. Present were:

Delia Busby	Chair
Stan Friedman	Vice Chair
Candace Woods	Secretary
Anjuli Kapoor	Member
Ellen Johnson-Fay	Member
Kim Sannes	Member
Moni Hernandez	Member
Ty Nagamatsu	Alternate
Ben Gallegos-Pardo	Alternate
Catherine Duarte	Colorado Springs City Liaison
Steve Posey	Manager, Community Development Division
Peter Wysocki	Director, Planning and Community Development

1. Call to Order – Delia
2. Approve March 2021 minutes – unanimously approved
3. Opportunity for citizen comment – three minutes per person
4. Introduction of the new commissioners – Candace
5. Commissioner Check-in – merged with the introduction of the new commissioners
6. Chair's Report
 - a. HRC Round Table and Community Forum Series update (Outreach/Education Subcommittee)
 - i. Delia – first date June 22, at Library 21C, PPLD, library is offering technical support; meeting around content and tech to happen tomorrow; reserved time in August and October for the HRC to be doing work with PPLD and on radio
 - ii. Moni – has 20 years of experience in radio, will be helping with this piece of the forum series
 - iii. Delia – Anjuli will be bringing her experience from affordable housing to
 - iv. Anjuli – was voluntold by Delia to help with this programming; she'll be facilitating the conversation on June 22, bringing in Steve Posey as a part of that conversation. One conversation around the legal issues with the eviction moratorium, one on affordable housing and homelessness.
 - v. Delia – wanting to talk about breaking the cycles of poverty.
 - vi. Candace – different perspectives about poverty and wanting to understand how we as the HRC are understanding it. Are we seeing this as a systemic issue or an individual failure perspective?
 - vii. Anjuli – line item for next month's meeting to brainstorm issues that we'd like to see addressed by the forum series.
 - viii. Catherine – checked in with Council staff around social media; they're happy to help share things out from the city's social media page. They don't design, but we have some money to use for print and social design.

- b. Diversity Council
 - i. Delia – connection with Shirley Martinez, wanting to offer some support around civil discourse, education around the transgender issue
- 7. Transgender Support Follow-up – Kim presenting
 - a. Kim – should the HRC submit a letter of support to the City Council around some specific issues related to transgender inclusion?
 - b. Stan – sees this as a teachable moment for City Council. Need a general letter about inclusion and diversity.
 - c. Candace – thinks that there is a need to have direct policy impact asks for creating inclusion.
 - d. Ben – those of us who have this platform should use it to make moral and ethical statements addressing the issues of human relations in our community. He has connections to templates for making these kinds of statements and he can bring that to this table.
 - e. Moni – wants to see things written down and brought to the table.
 - f. Ty – even if people aren't going to acknowledge their bigotry it's important to write those letters and call it out while also looking for systemic fixes.
 - g. Ellen – without specific requests, nothing happens. Important part of the nonviolent communication process.
 - h. Ben – letters of support or request have power and the tools can be used in powerful ways.
 - i. Kim – power in taking a stand.
 - j. Stan, Kim, Candace, and Ben will draft a letter and bring it back to the whole team.
- 8. Listening Tour Subcommittee – Affordable Housing Initiative – Anjuli/Kim presenting
 - a. Kim – we had proposed 3 subcommittees, but with busyness of schedules and low membership, only one seems doable right now. So, the listening tour/outreach subcommittee is moving forward.
 - b. Anjuli – why are housing and homelessness the issues that are floating to the top?
 - i. post-pandemic future – Covid has exacerbated poverty and housing issues in the community. HUD money being used to house people in motels. Eviction moratorium is lifting on July 1. 150,000-200,000 households in Colorado at risk for eviction after that date.
 - ii. Zoning issues that can be addressed. Utilities fees, tax issues for affordable housing development. Cost of housing construction has increased exponentially during Covid.
 - iii. Do we want to identify priorities around housing/homelessness that we want to address? Is affordable housing and homelessness something we want to take on as an HRC?
 - c. Moni – talking to folks in the community and investors are purchasing up the housing stock in the community. What protection is there for individuals and families who are trying to purchase?
 - d. Anjuli – begin conversations with people who are involved in these processes so that we can together identify priorities.
 - e. Steve – the affordable housing and homeless issues are big and complex. If you keep the conversation at that high level, it's hard to get traction with any particular part of it. Need to identify topics that are relevant to the discussion and break it down. The people that you want to be a part of the conversations changes based on the topics you choose to focus on.
 - f. Candace – wanted to name that the RetoolCOS process is accepting community comments until 4/30, it would be impactful if we could make a comment on that.
 - g. Catherine – using the collaboratives that are already working on these issues would be helpful in making priorities.
 - h. Ty – interested in joining that process. Joining that subcommittee
 - i. Candace – moves to make affordable housing and homelessness a priority of the HRC. Moni seconded. Unanimously approved.
- 9. Other business/final commissioners' comments
 - a. Stan – LETAC – he's been attending the meetings. They're struggling with their mandate around what they're allowed to do and not do at the city level around policing.
- 10. Adjourned at 10:30am

Submitted by Candace Woods
Secretary